

AUG 03 2007

APPLICANT(S): GAT, Tal et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/748,173
FILED: December 31, 2003
Page 5

REMARKS

The present Response and Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 14-16, 20, and 22-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, and 20 have been amended.

Claims 3, 5, 9-10, 13, 17-19 and 21 have been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The amendments to the claims add no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS**35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC § 112 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection Based on Reinman and Giacalone

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 11-12, 14-16, 20 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Reinman et al., "Optimizations Enabled by a Decoupled Front-End Architecture" ("Reinman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,624 to Giacalone et al. ("Giacalone") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,577 to Tran ("Tran"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 11-12, 14-16,

APPLICANT(S): GAT, Tal et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/748,173
FILED: December 31, 2003
Page 6

20 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Reinman in view of Giacalone in view Tran in view of the remarks that follow.

According to M.P.E.P. § 2142, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Without conceding the appropriateness of the combination, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Reinman, Giacalone or Tran, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claims 1, 12 and 20 as amended, and therefore a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established by the Examiner with respect to amended claims 1, 12 and 20.

Applicants' independent claim 1 as amended includes, *inter alia*, "delivering said branch prediction to an instruction fetch unit during the same two clock cycle period as it is stored in said queue". Applicants' independent claims 12 and 20, as amended include, *inter alia*, a "branch prediction unit to deliver said branch predictions to said instruction fetch unit during the same two clock cycle period as it is stored in said queue."

None of Reinman, Giacalone or Tran, alone or in combination, disclose a branch prediction unit to deliver branch predictions to an instruction fetch unit during the same two clock cycle period as it is stored in a queue as in Applicants' independent claims 1, 12 and 20, as amended.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 12 and 20 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Reinman in view of Giacalone in view of Tran be withdrawn.

Each of claims 2, 4, 6-8, 11, 14-16 and 22-25 depends, directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1, 12 and 20, and includes all the features of the claim from which it depends as well as additional distinguishing features, and is therefore likewise allowable.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 11-12, 14-16, 20 and 22-25 under 35 USC §103(a) over Reinman in view of Giacalone be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to

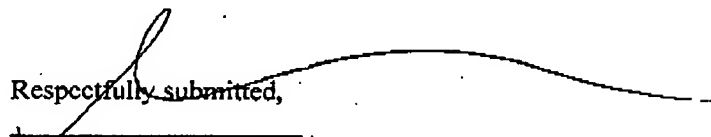
APPLICANT(S): GAT, Tal et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/748,173
FILED: December 31, 2003
Page 7

be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Response and Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

No fees are believed to be due associated with this paper. However, if any such fees are due, please charge such fees to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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